



STATE OF MICHIGAN


DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

February 21, 2008

TO: Local Health Officers and Medical Directors

FROM: Janet Olszewski, Director 

SUBJECT: Hib Vaccine Shortage and 2008 Childcare Reporting Requirements

On December 13, 2007, Merck & Co., Inc. announced a voluntary recall of certain lots of two *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccines, PedvaxHIB® (monovalent Hib vaccine) and Comvax® (Hib/hepatitis B vaccine) as a precautionary measure because the company cannot assure the sterility of equipment used during manufacture of these lots. Merck has suspended production of its Hib conjugate vaccines and does not expect to resume distribution of these vaccines until the fourth quarter of 2008. Children who received Hib conjugate vaccine from the recalled lots do not need re-vaccination or any special follow-up.

Because of the short-term reduction in available doses of Hib-containing vaccines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), recommends that providers temporarily defer administering the routine Hib vaccine booster dose administered at age 12-15 months except to children in specific groups at high risk*. Providers should register and track children for whom the booster dose is deferred to facilitate recalling them for vaccination when the supply situation improves.

Due to the difficulty in the assessment of which children are missing a booster dose of Hib vaccine, and the identification of which children have high-risk conditions and should still receive the booster dose, it is necessary to change our existing childcare reporting requirements. Childcare programs are encouraged to record Hib doses that are given, and should be prepared to follow up on these children when the vaccine supply improves.

Therefore, effective immediately, childcare requirements for completing all doses of Hib vaccine will be suspended for the 2008 reporting year.

If you or your staff has any questions regarding the temporary discontinuation of the Hib booster dose, please contact your Immunization Field Representative, or the Division of Immunization at 517-335-8159. Thank you for your cooperation during this period.

cc: Ismael Ahmed, Director, Department of Human Services
James Sinnamon, Department of Human Services, Office of Day Care Licensing
IAP/Immunization Coordinators
MDCH-Immunization Program Staff

This memo is written in accordance with the administrative rule cited below:

http://www.state.mi.us/orr/emi/admincode.asp?AdminCode=Single&Admin_Num=32500171&Dpt=CH&RngHigh
R 325.176 Immunizations required of children attending group programs or entering school.

(17) A requirement for immunization with a specific vaccine may be suspended temporarily at the request of the department director for reasons of inadequate vaccine supply.*

* <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm>

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